

clothing in public by anyone except clerics, and requires all religious groups and congregations to register or re-register." Also approved last May was a second law establishing the penalties if one were convicted of violating any of the statutes on religious activities. The penalties can range anywhere from lengthy prison sentences, massive fines, and confiscation of property, to denial of official registration rights. On May 12 of this year, Uzbekistan tightened its Criminal Code, making participation in an unregistered religious group a criminal offense, punishable by a fine equivalent to fifty times the minimum monthly wage or imprisonment of up to three years.

Mr. Speaker, these actions indicate that the policies of the Government of Uzbekistan toward religious groups are not moving in the right direction.

In fact, these initiatives are in direct violation to Uzbekistan's OSCE commitments, including Article 16.3 of the Vienna Concluding Document which states that "the State will grant upon their request to communities of believers, practicing or prepared to practice their faith within the constitutional framework of their States, recognition of the status provided for them in the respective countries." In the Copenhagen Concluding Document of 1990 Article 9.1, Uzbekistan has committed to "reaffirm that everyone will have the right to freedom of expression including the right to communication. This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers." Uzbekistan's current course of strangling all forms of religious discourse is a flagrant, deliberate, and unrelenting violation of these principles.

Last year Congress overwhelmingly passed the Religious Freedom Act of 1998 which reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting religious freedom abroad through U.S. foreign policy. Considering the litany of violations affecting religious liberty and the ongoing persecution of believers, it is time for Congress to consider our aid programs to Uzbekistan, including our military cooperation programs which cost about 33 million dollars in this year alone. Congress should also reconsider our trade relationship with Uzbekistan and scrutinize other programs such as Cooperative Threat Reduction where we can leverage our influence to help protect religious liberty and human rights.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EDWARD QUAGLIA

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Edward Quaglia of Herrin, Illinois. Mayor Quaglia served the people and city of Herrin faithfully for more than twenty years; seven of those years as an alderman on the City Council, and for 15 years as mayor. This year, on May 31, Mayor Quaglia retired as Mayor due to health concerns. In honor of his retirement, the City of Herrin, the

City Council of Herrin, and Mayor Victor Ritter have proclaimed July 18, 1999 as "Mayor Edward Quaglia Day."

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Quaglia will be long remembered by the good people of the City of Herrin, southern Illinois, and the entire State for his determined dedication to making Herrin a better place to live and to raise a family. Mayor Quaglia will not only be remembered for his numerous achievements including improving the city's infrastructure, and his hard work on development and construction of the Civic Center, the Annual Mayor's Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner for the poor and homeless, the High School Sport's Complex, and planning the city's premier annual event Herrifesta Italiana, but most importantly for his compassionate and straight-forward leadership style. He always gave all he had for a good cause and put the welfare of the citizens and City of Herrin first. When speaking of Mayor Quaglia, it is impossible not to mention his family, which is so important to him. His wife JoAnne has always stood by his side and been the light of his life. He has five loving children and four beautiful grandchildren.

I know that Mayor Quaglia will be sorely missed by all of Herrin in his retirement. But it is a retirement well earned, and one that I am sure that Edward Quaglia, and his family and friends, will enjoy with him to the fullest. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my fellow Members to share in my wish to extend Mayor Quaglia a long, healthy, and happy retirement along with Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO BOB TOBIAS

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in tribute to Bob Tobias, who is retiring after 31 years with the National Treasury Employees Union—including sixteen years as its president. He has been a tireless and effective advocate for the workers he represents, and he is a well-regarded spokesperson for the interests of all federal employees.

I got to know Bob in 1996 when we were both appointed to the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS, which I co-chaired with Senator BOB KERREY. He was an active and productive member of the Restructuring Commission, and helped to develop a number of the Commission's recommendations that were later signed into law as part of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act.

I admire Bob for speaking up on IRS reform at a time when I suspect many of his members were uneasy about the long-term ramifications of the restructuring effort. He deserves a great deal of credit for helping to shape a bill that will not only benefit American taxpayers, but will also create a greatly improved work environment for IRS employees.

I understand that Bob plans to teach and write on public policy issues after leaving the NTEU. But he will also be continuing to work on IRS reform—I understand that he will be nominated by the President to serve on the IRS Oversight Board.

Bob played an important role in creating the framework for a new IRS for the 21st Century. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his role on the IRS Oversight Board, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE LAND RECYCLING ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Land Recycling Act of 1999 along with a strong bipartisan group of co-sponsors. The Act will remove Federal barriers to the cleanup of brownfields across the country. Removing these barriers will spur investors, benefit cleanup contractors and provide tools for state and local governments to tackle this longstanding problem. These efforts will provide for more livable, secure and vibrant neighborhoods. The blight that has dominated both urban and rural areas should not continue.

My bill will bring about aggressive state reclamation and cleanup of brownfields—abandoned or underutilized former industrial properties where actual or potential environmental contamination hinders redevelopment or prevents it altogether. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] estimates that there may be as many as 500,000 such sites nationwide. In my own congressional district, the southern portion of Bucks County is estimated to have 3 square miles of abandoned or underutilized industrial property.

These well-positioned, once-productive industrial real estate sites pose continuing risks to human health and the environment, erode state and local tax bases, hinder job growth, and allow existing infrastructure to go to waste. Moreover, the reluctance to utilize brownfields has led developers to bulldoze greenfields, which do not pose the risk of liability. Development in these areas contributes to suburban sprawl, and eliminates future recreational and agricultural uses. The Land Recycling Act will help stop urban erosion, and provide incentives to the redevelopment of our cities and towns across the country.

The brownfields problem has many causes. Foremost among them is the existing Federal law itself. Under the Superfund law, parties who currently own or operate a facility can be held 100 percent liable for any cleanup costs regardless of whether they contributed to the environmental contamination and regardless of whether they were in any way at fault. Because of the potential for this kind of liability, it is simply not worth dealing with the environmental exposure as long as developers have the alternative of building in rural areas where they are not exposed to liability. Owners can't sell and instead simply mothball them indefinitely. Clean-up contractors face uncertain liability.

Unrealistic standards and one-size-fits-all remedy selection also prevent voluntary actions and leave sites in years of red tape. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act